Written by BILL SCHANEN IV
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Coyote shocks family by playing with ball in residential neighborhood

Kathy DeMaria has seen a lot of aggressive soccer played in the back yard of her Port Washington home, but nothing as wild as what she saw Monday morning.

In the middle of her yard off Noridge Trail, a large coyote was chewing on one of her sons' soccer balls.

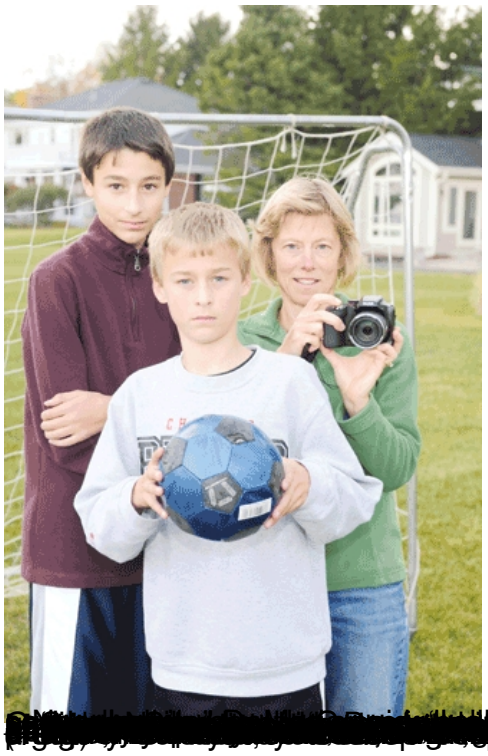
"The coyote literally picked the ball up from one of the goals, lay down and started chewing on it," she said. "It was absolutely unbelievable."

Living along the Lake Michigan bluff, DeMaria and her family have seen plenty of wildlife in their yard — squirrels, raccoons, deer, even the occasional red fox, but never a coyote.

"This was so amazing that at first I thought it had to be a red fox since we've seen a number of them recently," she said. "But it was way too big to be a fox."

The coyote, seemly content to gnaw on a soccer ball in the middle of a city yard, stuck around long enough for DeMaria to take several photos and for her 13-year-old son Domenic, who was home from school sick, to get a good look.

"I was taking photos through the window and thought, 'This is too good to be shooting through glass,' so I started to open the window," DeMaria said. "He heard the latch and was gone."



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